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Figure 12 30 Node Protection Cycle Topology Connection Processor 36 Information Switch Protection 40 Software Transmission Control Unit Allocation Logic Software Protocol Stack Switch Fabric Network Ports

Figure 13 100 Distribute connection information associated with flows on a protection cycle to all nodes on the protection cycle 102 Upon occurrence of a failure on the protection cycle, determine by each node on the protection cycle which flows are affected by the failure on the protection cycle 104 Determine, by each node on the protection cycle, the protection transmission unit allocation for the flows affected by the failure from the connection information associated with the affected flows